

What is claimed is:

1 1. A system for facilitating complex document drafting with
2 authenticated clause selection, comprising:
3 a database comprising a table of individual clauses with each individual
4 clause including provisions and terms relating to one or more potentially affected
5 parties;
6 a list of authorizations stored into the database with each authorization
7 controlling clause modification and usage by users for each individual clause;
8 a list of preferences stored into the database with each preference
9 influencing clause selection for each individual party; and
10 a clause selection module authenticating each selection of an individual
11 clause from the individual clauses table against the authorizations list for a given
12 user and the preferences list for the given user and the potentially affected parties.

1 2. A system according to Claim 1, further comprising:
2 an index indexing the individual clauses into a topical ordering based on
3 the subject matter addressed therein; and
4 the clause selection module selecting each individual clause from the
5 topical ordering.

1 3. A system according to Claim 1, further comprising:
2 a table of annotations stored into the database with each annotation
3 providing an explanatory description of at least one linked individual clause; and
4 the clause selection module presenting each annotation upon the selection
5 of the at least one linked individual clause from the individual clauses table.

1 4. A system according to Claim 1, further comprising:
2 a table of standard outlines stored into the database with each standard
3 outline creating an organizational framework into which the individual clauses
4 can be inserted in a structured order;

5 a list of authorizations stored into the database with each authorization
6 controlling outline modification and usage by users for each standard outline;
7 a list of preferences stored into the database with each preference
8 influencing outline selection for each individual party; and
9 a standard outline selection module authenticating each selection of a
10 standard outline from the standard outlines table against the authorizations list for
11 a given user and the preferences list for the one or more individual parties.

1 5. A system according to Claim 1, further comprising:
2 a table of non-standard outlines stored into the database with each non-
3 standard outline creating an organizational framework into which the individual
4 clauses can be inserted;
5 a list of authorizations stored into the database with each authorization
6 controlling outline modification and usage by users for each standard outline;
7 a non-standard outline selection module authenticating each selection of a
8 non-standard outline from the non-standard outlines table against the
9 authorizations list for a given user.

1 6. A system according to Claim 1, further comprising:
2 a table of topics stored into the database with each topic providing a
3 description of a topic relating to an aspect of document drafting; and
4 a learn module presenting each topic upon selection.

1 7. A system according to Claim 1, further comprising:
2 a journal recording each selection of an individual clause from the
3 individual clauses table that results in a final document.

1 8. A system according to Claim 1, wherein at least one of the list of
2 authorizations and the list of preferences further comprises pricing information,
3 the system further comprising:
4 the clause selection module filtering each selection of an individual clause
5 from the individual clauses table against pricing information.

1 9. A method for facilitating complex document drafting with
2 authenticated clause selection, comprising:
3 maintaining a database comprising a table of individual clauses with each
4 individual clause including provisions and terms relating to one or more
5 potentially affected parties;
6 storing a list of authorizations into the database with each authorization
7 controlling clause modification and usage by users for each individual clause;
8 storing a list of preferences into the database with each preference
9 influencing clause selection for each individual party; and
10 authenticating each selection of an individual clause from the individual
11 clauses table against the authorizations list for a given user and the preferences
12 list for the given user and the potentially affected parties.

1 10. A method according to Claim 9, further comprising:
2 indexing the individual clauses into a topical ordering based on the subject
3 matter addressed therein; and
4 selecting each individual clause from the topical ordering.

1 11. A method according to Claim 9, further comprising:
2 storing a table of annotations into the database with each annotation
3 providing an explanatory description of at least one linked individual clause; and
4 presenting each annotation upon the selection of the at least one linked
5 individual clause from the individual clauses table.

1 12. A method according to Claim 9, further comprising:
2 storing a table of standard outlines into the database with each standard
3 outline creating an organizational framework into which the individual clauses
4 can be inserted in a structured order;
5 storing a list of authorizations into the database with each authorization
6 controlling outline modification and usage by users for each standard outline;

7 storing a list of preferences into the database with each preference
8 influencing outline selection for each individual party; and
9 authenticating each selection of a standard outline from the standard
10 outlines table against the authorizations list for a given user and the preferences
11 list for the one or more individual parties.

1 13. A method according to Claim 9, further comprising:
2 storing a table of non-standard outlines into the database with each non-
3 standard outline creating an organizational framework into which the individual
4 clauses can be inserted;
5 storing a list of authorizations into the database with each authorization
6 controlling outline modification and usage by users for each standard outline;
7 authenticating each selection of a non-standard outline from the non-
8 standard outlines table against the authorizations list for a given user.

1 14. A method according to Claim 9, further comprising:
2 storing a table of topics into the database with each topic providing a
3 description of a topic relating to an aspect of document drafting; and
4 presenting each topic upon selection.

1 15. A method according to Claim 9, further comprising:
2 recording each selection of an individual clause from the individual
3 clauses table that results in a final document into a journal.

1 16. A method according to Claim 9, wherein at least one of the list of
2 authorizations and the list of preferences further comprises pricing information,
3 the system further comprising:
4 the clause selection module filtering each selection of an individual clause
5 from the individual clauses table against pricing information.

1 17. A computer-readable storage medium holding code for performing
2 the method of Claim 9.

1 18. A system for efficiently drafting a legal document using an
2 authenticated clause table, comprising:
3 a table of clauses compiled into a shareable database, each clause relating
4 to one or more individual parties potentially affected by a use of the clause in a
5 legal document and including authorizations controlling access and preferences
6 specifying provisions and terms for a specific subject matter;
7 a searchable index of the clauses table formed using a topical ordering
8 based on the specific subject matter included in the provisions and terms of each
9 clause; and
10 a clause selection interface including document drafting controls,
11 comprising:
12 an index panel presenting the clauses table index on the user
13 interface; and
14 a clause panel authenticating a clause selection against the
15 authorizations for a given user and the preferences for the individual parties and
16 displaying an individual clause from the clauses table on the user interface upon
17 the selection by the given user following successful authentication.

1 19. A system according to Claim 18, further comprising:
2 a table of outlines compiled into the shareable database, each outline
3 creating an organizational framework into which the clauses can be inserted to
4 form the legal document and including authorizations controlling access and
5 preferences influencing outline selection for each individual party;
6 a searchable index of the outlines table formed using a topical ordering
7 based on a subject matter of each outline; and
8 an outline selection interface including document drafting controls,
9 comprising:
10 an index panel authenticating the index panel against the
11 authorizations for a given user and the preferences for the individual parties and
12 presenting the outlines table index on the user interface; and

13 an outline panel authenticating an outline selection against the
14 authorizations for a given user and the preferences for the individual parties and
15 displaying an individual outline from the outlines table on the user interface upon
16 the selection by the given user following successful authentication.

1 20. A system according to Claim 19, further comprising:
2 a hierarchical tree display of at least one of the outlines table index and the
3 clauses table index, each such hierarchical tree display comprising:
4 a general topic listing comprising one or more of general index
5 entries from the at least one of the outlines table index and the clauses table index;
6 and
7 a specific topic listing comprising one or more of specific index
8 entries from the at least one of the outlines table index and the clauses table index.

1 21. A system according to Claim 19, further comprising:
2 an annotation associated with each individual clause from the clauses table
3 and with each individual outline from the outlines table, the annotation providing
4 an explanatory description of at least one of the associated individual clause and
5 the associated individual outline; and
6 an annotation panel presenting each annotation upon the selection of at
7 least one of the associated individual clause and the associated individual outline.

1 22. A system according to Claim 21, further comprising:
2 a hyperlink to a data source external to the shareable database
3 incorporated into one or more of the annotations, the external data source
4 providing a further explanatory explanation of an aspect of the annotation; and
5 a browser window presenting each external data source upon the selection
6 of the hyperlink from the one or more of the annotations.

1 23. A system according to Claim 19, further comprising:
2 a journal recording each selection of at least one of the selected individual
3 clause and the selected individual outline usage.

1 24. A system according to Claim 18, further comprising:
2 a table of topics compiled into the shareable database, each topic
3 providing a description of a topic relating to an aspect of document drafting and
4 including authorizations controlling access and preferences influencing topic
5 selection for each individual party;
6 a searchable index of the topics table formed using a topical ordering
7 based on a subject matter of each topic; and
8 a topic selection interface including topic viewing controls, comprising:
9 an index panel presenting the topics table index on the user
10 interface; and
11 an annotation panel authenticating a topic selection against the
12 authorizations for a given user and the preferences for the individual parties and
13 displaying an individual topic from the topics table on the user interface upon the
14 selection by the given user following successful authentication.

1 25. A method for efficiently drafting a legal document using an
2 authenticated clause table, comprising:
3 compiling a table of clauses into a shareable database, each clause relating
4 to one or more individual parties potentially affected by a use of the clause in a
5 legal document and including authorizations controlling access and preferences
6 specifying provisions and terms for a specific subject matter;
7 forming a searchable index of the clauses table using a topical ordering
8 based on the specific subject matter included in the provisions and terms of each
9 clause; and
10 exporting a clause selection interface including document drafting
11 controls, comprising:
12 authenticating the clauses table index against the authorizations for
13 a given user and the preferences for the individual parties;
14 presenting the clauses table index on the user interface;

15 authenticating a clause selection against the authorizations for a
16 given user and the preferences for the individual parties; and
17 displaying an individual clause from the clauses table on the user
18 interface upon the selection by the given user following successful authentication.

1 26. A method according to Claim 25, further comprising:
2 compiling a table of outlines into the shareable database, each outline
3 creating an organizational framework into which the clauses can be inserted to
4 form the legal document and including authorizations controlling access and
5 preferences influencing outline selection for each individual party;
6 forming a searchable index of the outlines table using a topical ordering
7 based on a subject matter of each outline; and
8 exporting a outline selection interface including document drafting
9 controls, comprising:
10 presenting the outlines table index on the user interface;
11 authenticating an outline selection against the authorizations for a
12 given user and the preferences for the individual parties; and
13 displaying an individual outline from the outlines table on the user
14 interface upon the selection by the given user following successful authentication.

1 27. A method according to Claim 26, further comprising:
2 building a hierarchical tree display of at least one of the outlines table
3 index and the clauses table index, each such hierarchical tree display comprising:
4 a general topic listing comprising one or more of general index
5 entries from the at least one of the outlines table index and the clauses table index;
6 and
7 a specific topic listing comprising one or more of specific index
8 entries from the at least one of the outlines table index and the clauses table index.

1 28. A method according to Claim 26, further comprising:

2 associating an annotation with each individual clause from the clauses
3 table and with each individual outline from the outlines table, the annotation
4 providing an explanatory description of at least one of the associated individual
5 clause and the associated individual outline; and
6 presenting each annotation upon the selection of at least one of the
7 associated individual clause and the associated individual outline.

1 29. A method according to Claim 28, further comprising:
2 incorporating a hyperlink to a data source external to the shareable
3 database into one or more of the annotations, the external data source providing a
4 further explanatory explanation of an aspect of the annotation; and
5 presenting each external data source upon the selection of the hyperlink
6 from the one or more of the annotations.

1 30. A method according to Claim 26, further comprising:
2 recording each selection of at least one of the selected individual clause
3 and the selected individual outline usage in a journal.

1 31. A method according to Claim 25, further comprising:
2 compiling a table of topics into the shareable database, each topic
3 providing a description of a topic relating to an aspect of document drafting and
4 including authorizations controlling access and preferences influencing topic
5 selection for each individual party;
6 forming a searchable index of the topics table using a topical ordering
7 based on a subject matter of each topic; and
8 exporting a topic selection interface including topic viewing controls,
9 comprising:
10 presenting the topics table index on the user interface;
11 authenticating an topic selection against the authorizations for a
12 given user and the preferences for the individual parties; and

13 displaying an individual topic from the topics table on the user
14 interface upon the selection by the given user following successful authentication.

1 32. A computer-readable storage medium holding code for performing
2 the method of Claim 25.

1 33. An automated system for drafting a contract with authenticated
2 content selection, comprising:

3 a database shareable by a plurality of users, comprising:

4 a table of contract clauses, each contract clause relating to one or
5 more parties potentially affected by a use of the contract clause and including
6 annotations explaining the content thereof;

7 a table of contract outlines, each outline creating an organizational
8 framework into which the clauses can be inserted to form the contract and
9 including annotations explaining the content thereof;

10 a set of searchable indices of the contract clauses table and the contract
11 outlines table using a topical ordering;

12 a list of authorizations with each authorization controlling contract clause
13 and contract outline modification and usage by users;

14 a list of preferences with each preference influencing contract clause and
15 contract outline selection for each potentially affected party; and

16 a contract drafting module authenticating each selection of at least one of a
17 contract clause from the contract clauses table and a contract outline from the
18 contract outlines table against the authorizations list for a given user and the
19 preferences list for the given user and the potentially affected parties.

1 34. An automated method for drafting a contract with authenticated
2 content selection, comprising:

3 maintaining a database shareable by a plurality of users, comprising:

